

This year we celebrate SBA's golden anniversary! For 50 years SBA has recognized the valuable contributions of small business men and women to the overall economy.

The SBA Seattle District Office Annual Report shows through numbers the impact this office had in 2002 on the local business community. Working to make this happen is a dedicated staff of hardworking SBA employees who are doing more with less.

In 2002 we reached more entrepreneurs than ever and 35,000 unique visitors clicked on [www.sba.gov/wa/seattle](http://www.sba.gov/wa/seattle) - the Seattle District Office website. Thanks to the energetic support of our public and private resource partners we were able to reach more clients at different locations throughout Western Washington.

For the Seattle District Office a high point of 2002 was the first Small Business Awards Gala - *a big night for small business* - held at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle. This event celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit in our community by honoring the winners of the SBA's annual Small Business Person and Advocates of the Year competition.

We in the SBA Seattle District Office strive to provide entrepreneurs with what they need to pursue their dream of financial prosperity.

Bob Meredith  
SBA Seattle District Director



# Seattle District

## 2003 Annual Report

Park Place Building  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Suite 1700  
Seattle, WA 98101

206-553-7310

[www.sba.gov/wa/seattle](http://www.sba.gov/wa/seattle)

### SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS 2002

The SBA creates a national spotlight each year to honor small business entrepreneurs and advocates who support the small business community. We honored the following recipients at the 2002 Small Business Awards Gala - a big night for small business - April 18, 2002

**Washington State  
Small Business Owner of the Year**  
*Alice Cunningham, Olympic Hot Tub Company*

**Accountant Advocate of the Year Western  
Washington and Region X**  
*Patricia Schmick, Enrolled Agent*

**Financial Advocate**  
*Elizabeth Rusnak, Banner Bank*

**Minority Small Business Person  
of the Year State of Washington and Region X**  
*Regina L. Glenn, Pacific Communications  
Consultants, Inc*

**Small Business Journalist of the Year**  
*Kimberly A. Hilden, The Herald Business  
Journal*

**Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year  
Western Washington**  
*John H. Witham, Worksource Cowlitz*

**Women in Business Advocate of the Year  
State of Washington and Region X**  
*Ruth Ann Halford, Seattle Women's Business  
Center*

**Young Entrepreneurs of the Year  
State of Washington**  
*Duke Pham and Rob Meredith,  
Matrix Resource Partners Inc.*

**Gold Medal Award**  
*Bank of America  
Provided \$13,908,100 in SBA guarantee  
financing to 241 businesses in the  
Seattle District territory.*